(d) Government has been taking continuous measures for increasing quota utilization, which include release of additional quantities under the First Come First Serve (FCFS)/Ready Goods Entitlement (RGE) systems; recycling of unutilized and surrendered quantities under the FCFS/RGE pool; invocation of normal and exceptional flexibilities, simplifying and rationalizing procedures regarding Earnest Money Deposit (EMD), transferability and validity of quotas etc. Besides, the Textile Export Promotion Councils have been undertaking regular export promotion measures to step up exports of textile and clothing items, including quota items to quota countries.

Functioning of testing laboratories under CSB in Karnataka

1602. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) how many testing laboratories under Central Silk Board are functioning in Karnataka;

(b) whether there is any proposal to set up more testing laboratories to avoid delays in the mandatory testing of silk imported from China; and

(c) if so, how many new testing laboratories proposed to be set up in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) to (c) Two testing laboratories are functioning under the Central Silk Technological Research Institute (CSTRI) of Central Silk Board in Karnataka. As the raw silk testing facilities available in these laboratories are considered adequate to handle testing of imported silk, at present there is no proposal to set up more testing laboratories.

New scheme for textile workers

1603. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to introduce a new scheme aimed at development and welfare of the textile sector workers and augmenting the employment opportunities in the sector;

(b) if so, what are the details with allocations made for implementation of the scheme; and